

U.S Embassy, Dakar, Senegal
Safety/Security Message for U.S. Citizens
September 22, 2011

This message is to inform U.S. citizens in Senegal of upcoming demonstrations in Dakar. On Friday, September 23, 2011, the opposition political movement, M23, is planning to hold demonstrations in Dakar, and possibly in other cities throughout Senegal, following afternoon prayers (around 2:30pm). The group is planning to hold their demonstration at the Place de l'Obelisque in the neighborhood of Colobane in Dakar and around the RTS building; locations in other cities are unknown. Although the group at this time does not have a permit to hold a demonstration, calls for public participation have been made via the media. The movement has regularly held similar demonstrations on the 23rd of each month since the violent June 23rd demonstration outside the National Assembly, which was held in opposition to proposed constitutional changes to election procedures.

While most demonstrations in Senegal are non-violent, the potential for violence exists, particularly in this period prior to the planned Presidential elections in February 2012. You should avoid political gatherings and consider altering your routes to avoid the areas of the planned demonstrations on Friday. You are encouraged to stay current with media coverage of local events, avoid demonstrations, and practice good situational awareness while moving about Senegal at all times. You should modify your travel plans to account for the possibility of protests and/or ensuing delays in affected areas.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Dakar web site (<http://dakar.usembassy.gov/>). You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warning, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html). If you don't have internet access, you can get current information on safety and security by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP - <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to consulardakar@state.gov. The Embassy telephone number is +221 33 829-2100. For After Hours Emergency, please call Tel: 33-829-2209 and ask to speak to the duty officer.